HEALY'S PHARMACY CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

By Liam Timmins

Claire and staff of Healy's Pharmacy

Claire Healy and her business, Healy's Pharmacy, are celebrating 25 years in operation, dispensing prescriptions and providing health advice along Society Street over the past quarter century.

Following her studies in Trinity College, Dublin, in Pharmacy, Tipperary woman Claire Healy worked for some time in McGorisks in Athlone. Claire always had the desire to establish her own business, keen to work for herself. The opportunity arose 25 years ago in town when Brendan Walsh sold her the business upon his retirement, and Healy's Pharmacy has been operating since June of 1998.

Fortunately she inherited a thriving establishment, with Brendan building a loyal customer base over the years. She only continued to build on the foundation he left behind, over the years making major refurbishments to the store including in 2009 where they extended the dispensary and private consultation areas.

Claire expressed her gratitude for Ballinasloe and townsfolk for their support throughout the many years sharing: "I was very fortunate that those people gave me a chance and supported me even though I was a blow-in from Tipperary!". Claire has established a strong friendship base and connection here in town, and has a bit of fun with the people come the hurling season, supporting her home Munster county.

The Pharmacy was met with some challenges in recent years with the disruption caused by the major town revamp along Society Street in 2019 and the pandemic years, interfering with their business. However, the business overcame these challenges and is going strong to this day.

It would not be possible to have remained in operation without the support of Healy's Pharmacy's great staff. Claire's current team include long-time staff Carmel Connelly and Ethel Crehan who run the front of shop, pharmacist Niamh Walsh, technician Lauren Gavin and locum pharmacist Trish Halliday, who all run the dispensary at the back of the establishment. Over the years, Claire had the opportunity to work with many other great people, in particular remembering Sarah Geraghty, Mary Doyle, Christina Keegan, Claire Greene and Teresa Whyte for their efforts.

For their 25th anniversary on Friday June 2, Healy's Pharmacy are running a draw for all their regular customers and anyone in attendance on the day. The first place prize is a hotel voucher for €250 of a hotel of the winner's choice, the second a €100 voucher for Gullane's Hotel, third a €100 voucher for Jorena's Gift Shop and fourth €50 voucher for Kariba's Restaurant.

The store offers a wide range of health products and beauty products for both regular clients and visitors in the town. The highly trained staff can also provide valuable advice and treatments for a wide range of health issues ranging from minor aches and pains, to cold and flu symptoms. Furthermore, those suffering from chronic conditions including diabetes and high blood pressure can consult with the healthcare professionals for guidance.

"Our customer base spans all ages and we try our best to give a very personal service" states Claire. "Bearing in mind that people can be at a very low point when they come to the pharmacy, be that through physical or mental illnesses, we hope they feel cared for here and that we can play some part in supporting them through difficult times" she explains.

Healy's Pharmacy is open from Monday to Saturday from 09:15 to 18:00. For those hoping to get in contact with them for their services, they can be reached by phone at (090) 964 2252 or via email at healyspharmacyballinasloe@eircom.net.

"I cannot thank the people of the town and hinterland enough for their loyalty and I hope I and my staff have repaid them in terms of the service we offer" enthuses Claire.

Claire Healy pictured with prize winner Liz Cahill